

Ecuador
Boundaries
Interest

AIRGRAM

POL 2 Ecuador

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AIRPOUCH

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO: Amembassy Quito
CINCSO for POLAD

FROM : Amconsul Guayaquil

DATE: December 7, 1966

SUBJECT: Guayaquil Weekly Summary No. 49

CONTENTSPOLITICAL

1. Velasco Indicates He Will Ride Again.
2. Territorial Dispute Results in Several Dead.
3. Guayaquil Student Elections Confirmed.
4. Bomb Explosion in Guayaquil.

ECONOMICS AND LABOR

5. Guayas Bridge Project Off Then Back On The Tracks.
6. CEOSL Congress Breaks Up Acrimoniously.
7. Guayaquil Port Authority Workers Undermining Influence of Former Secretary General.
8. Border Problems With Peru.

POLITICAL1. Velasco Indicates He Will Ride Again

a. "Boots! saddle! to horse and away!"

b. The once grand-master of Ecuadorean politics, the four-time president who finished only one term, the personifier of caudillismo and demogogy for more than three decades, the "great absent one" whose last return from exile seven months ago failed in its purpose of gaining him the presidency for a fifth time, has once more abandoned Ecuador. But he says he will ride again.

c. Jose Maria VELASCO Ibarra, obviously disillusioned as the old magic appears to have run its course, left for Buenos Aires aboard an APSA jet

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

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Clearances:

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GUAYAQUIL

early December 5th, accompanied by three of his cronies. (Guayaquil 487 and 488).

d. He told a small, close coterie of friends who had gone to see him off that he was not leaving for good. Unfortunately, if his health holds up, he may well be back in a year or so when the country will probably next hold direct popular elections. The lean, ascetic, ego-centric 73-year-old war-horse still considers himself a man of providence..and he may keep trying.

e. But he probably has had it. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE).

2. Territorial Dispute Results In Several Dead

a. A long-simmering, vest-pocket civil war between the Provinces of Manabí and Pichincha erupted into serious violence this past week-end, leaving at least three persons dead from bullet wounds and 25 more killed as a result of a bus accident, the latter including a number of university students. An equally-large number remains hospitalized, according to press reports.

b. The violence occurred in and near the small town of El Carmen, which lies within the disputed territory, and the dead were mainly from the city of Chone who had gone to El Carmen to denounce actions taken by the Pichincha Provincial Government, which entity is purportedly seeking to annex a sector that Manabí claims as its own.

c. The Ministers of Agriculture and Health have spent the past two days discussing the situation with citizens in Chone and Portoviejo. Earlier, the Minister of Government declared that the suggestion of the Pichincha Provincial Government to declare the El Carmen area a neutral zone was being accepted and that, meanwhile, the territorial dispute would be referred for solution to the "competency" of the Constituent Assembly. Subsequently, Manabí authorities reversed the position and objected to neutralizing their territory.

d. The local press has been vitriolic in its criticism of Pichincha, and thus regionalist sentiments have again boiled over. (UNCLASSIFIED).

3. Guayaquil Student Elections Confirmed

The FEUE/Guayaquil Executive Committee met on December 2 and confirmed the election of law student Gustavo VON BUCHWALD as President of the local chapter and Bolivar F. SANTACRUZ Vivanco as Vice President. (For previous, see A-56, item 3.) Communist elements in FEUE are expected to try to unseat these anti-Communist students in the weeks and months ahead. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE).

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